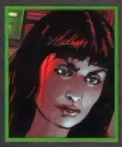
War Machine, a.k.a. Jim Rhodes. Soldier turned super hero turned cyborg with a new mandate to take on monsters and madmen in international hotspots across the globe.

Dr. Glenda Sandoval
Jim's childhood friend and flame.

Parnell Jacobs.
Glenda's husband. Former arms dealer, now War Machine's one-man pit crew.



Bethany Cabe.
Director of the secret War Machine R&D facility in the Colorado mountains.

Jake Oh.
Former S.H.I.E.L.D. Agent, current Eaglestar military contractor.

Suzi Endo.
Cybermancer for hire.

Bethany Cabe's Log

Jim Rhodes is some kind of man, all right: half human, half cyborg, all soldier. Enlisting the aid of myself and other technosavants, Jim stormed into the country Agiria to save his ex...and ended up laying waste to its capitol in the process. Which pissed off H.A.M.M.E.R. head Norman Osborn. Big time.

Now we're back in the U.S. of A., and Rhodey's determined to raise six kinds of hell. A short pit stop with his mother, currently hiding out in Arizona's Navajo Nation, turns into a fracas worthy of Peckinpah. It seems the Nation's protector, Jason Strongbow, a.k.a. American Eagle, doesn't want any part of what Jim's got planned—namely breaking into Mackelroy Army Base—to cause his people problems.

Too late.

WAR MACHINE

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DUBAI. ONE YEAR AGO.
NOT A BAD LITTLE PLANE, BUT SHE YAWED A BIT DURING THE COBRA MANEUVER.
SHE'S NOT RATED FOR THE COBRA, SIR.
WELL, THAT EXPLAINS A LOT.
I MEAN, I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW YOU BROUGHT HER DOWN IN ONE PIECE...
CHECK IT OUT, HUMMELL--IF YOU INCREASE THE THRUST VECTORING BY THREE DEGREES AND TWEAK THE AIR FLOW HERE...
OH...OH, RIGHT! THANK YOU, SIR!
CAN'T TELL YOU HOW MUCH WE APPRECIATE YOUR CONSULTING FOR US, MR. RHODES.
THAT'S WHAT UNCLE SAM PAYS ME THE MEDIUM-SIZED BUCKS FOR, COLONEL HENDRICKSON.
NOW WHADDAYA SAY WE HIT THE BAR AND BLOW MY PER DIEM?
MR. RHODES... I...
...JUST NEED TO CHANGE.
HOT DOG!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE. AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY.
AH. YES. WAIT, I HAVE IT RIGHT HERE...

SHAKOOOOM!
UNGH!
STAY DOWN. I DON'T THINK THEY'RE--
DAMMIT.
WHAKOOOM!
RHODES, WAIT! YOU'RE HIT!
WHAKOOOM!
JUST HARD ENOUGH TO MAKE ME MAD.
OH DEAR GOD IN HEAVEN PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE--

THAT WAS THE FIRST MAN I'D KILLED IN SIX YEARS.
THOSE WERE THE SECOND, THIRD, AND FOURTH.
COBRA MANEUVER.
WORKS BETTER IN THE AIR.
I DIDN'T EVEN BLINK. THEY WERE TERRORISTS.
BRAKOOOM!
AND THIS WAS WAR.
I DIDN'T DOUBT FOR AN INSTANT THAT I WAS DOING THE RIGHT THING...

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X 1

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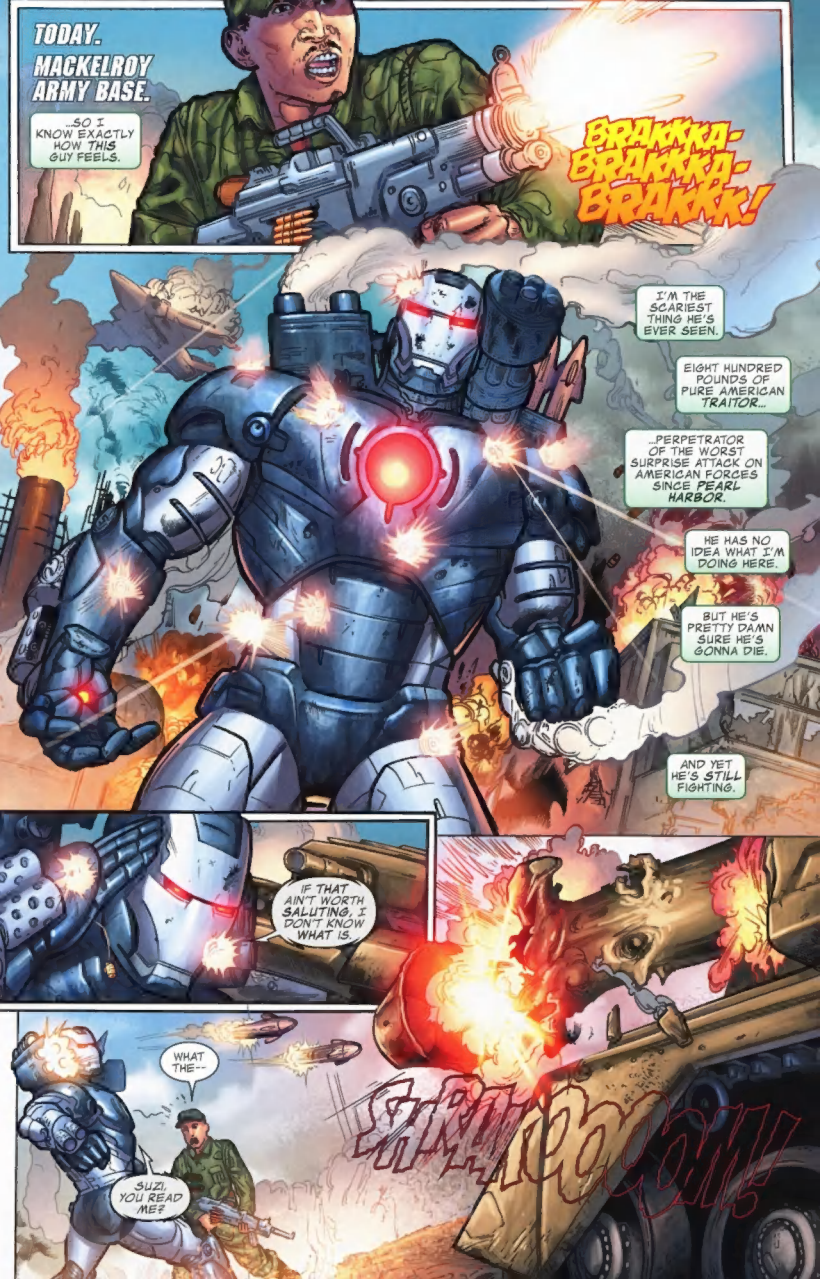
TODAY.
MACKELROY ARMY BASE.
...SO I KNOW EXACTLY HOW THIS GUY FEELS.
BRAKKKA-BRAKKKA-BRAKKK!
I'M THE SCARIEST THING HE'S EVER SEEN.
EIGHT HUNDRED POUNDS OF PURE AMERICAN TRAITOR...
...PERPETRATOR OF THE WORST SURPRISE ATTACK ON AMERICAN FORCES SINCE PEARL HARBOR.
HE HAS NO IDEA WHAT I'M DOING HERE.
BUT HE'S PRETTY DAMN SURE HE'S GONNA DIE.
AND YET HE'S STILL FIGHTING.
IF THAT AIN'T WORTH SALUTING, I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS.
WHAT THE--
SUZI, YOU READ ME?
KRAKOOM!

LOUD AND CLEAR, BOSS. WE'RE EN ROUTE.
YOU'VE BEEN TRACKING THE ATTACK?
OF COURSE. AND YOU'LL BE HAPPY TO KNOW THAT DESPITE UNLOADING MORE ORDNANCE THAN THE UNION USED AT GETTYSBURG...
...YOU'VE MANAGED TO AVOID HITTING A SINGLE HUMAN BEING.
MEANWHILE, YOU'VE TAKEN OUT EVERY PLANE, JEEP, AND TRANSPORT ON THE BASE...
...SO IF THERE'S A NEW OUTBREAK OF THE ULTIMO INFECTION, IT CAN ONLY SPREAD ON FOOT.
SO, SO FAR SO GOOD.
THE R&D FACILITY IS DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF YOU. WE NEED THE DATABANKS IN THERE TO PROVE WHAT THEY'VE BEEN DOING...
...SO TRY NOT TO BLOW IT UP COMPLETEL--
DAMMIT.
KRAAKOOOOOM!
HEH.
OH, GREAT.
HEY, SUZI... CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG...

"...BUT THAT GIANT ULTIMO HEAD LOOKS LIKE PLENTY OF PROOF TO ME."
VVAAAAKOOOM!

AVENGERS TOWER.
NEW YORK CITY.
WHAT THE HELL ARE WE LOOKING AT HERE, DIRECTOR OSBORN?
IT'S ULTIMO, GENERAL. A KILLER ROBOT FROM OUTER SPACE. NEARLY DESTROYED SPOKANE A FEW YEARS BACK.
AND WHAT THE HELL IS H.A.M.M.E.R. DOING HIDING THIS KIND OF DEATH MACHINE ON AMERICAN SOIL?
WAIT JUST ONE--
CLICK
KEEPING US SAFE, GENERAL.
BYE, NOW.
BOMBS, MS. HAND. LOTS OF THEM. NOW.
THEY'VE GOT SOME KIND OF SCRAMBLER GOING, SIR. WEAPONS CONTROL FAILS WHEN WE TARGET ANYTHING IN THE AREA.
TCH. NEAREST INITIATIVE TEAM?
THE DESERT STARS, BUT THEY'RE A THOUSAND MILES AWAY AND TWO MILES UNDERGROUND, INVESTIGATING A TYRANNUS RUMOR...
BUT JASON STRONGBOW'S ALREADY EN ROUTE, SIR.
AMERICAN EAGLE. HUH?
I TRIED TO KILL HIM ONCE. THINK HE REMEMBERS?

EAT ME.
HE REMEMBERS.
I'M BUSY, OSBORN. TALK FAST.
YOU'RE OFF THE REZ AND OUT OF YOUR JURISDICTION...
...NOT TO MENTION I'VE JUST LEARNED THAT YOU'VE BEEN HARBORING JAMES RHODES'S MOTHER IN THE NAVAJO NATION...
...WHERE SHE'S BEEN PAYING HER TAXES UNDER A FALSE SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER AND SELLING PIES WITHOUT A FOOD VENDOR'S LICENSE.
ARE YOU ACTUALLY RIDING A HORSE?
GOODBYE, OSBORN.
HANG ON. I'M JUST GETTING TO THE GOOD PART. ALL YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN.
YOU'RE NOW OFFICIALLY AN AGENT OF H.A.M.M.E.R....
...AUTHORIZED AND ORDERED TO TAKE JAMES RHODES DOWN, BY WHATEVER MEANS NECESSARY.
DON'T KNOW HOW CAUGHT UP YOU ARE ON CURRENT EVENTS, OSBORN...

"...BUT RHODES AIN'T THE PROBLEM!"
YOU SOLDIERS CAN'T FIGHT THIS THING!
PULL BACK AND LET ME--
ZZKOW
KLANG
DAMMIT.
AAAAGH!
ZZKOW
NO NO NO!
ZZKOW

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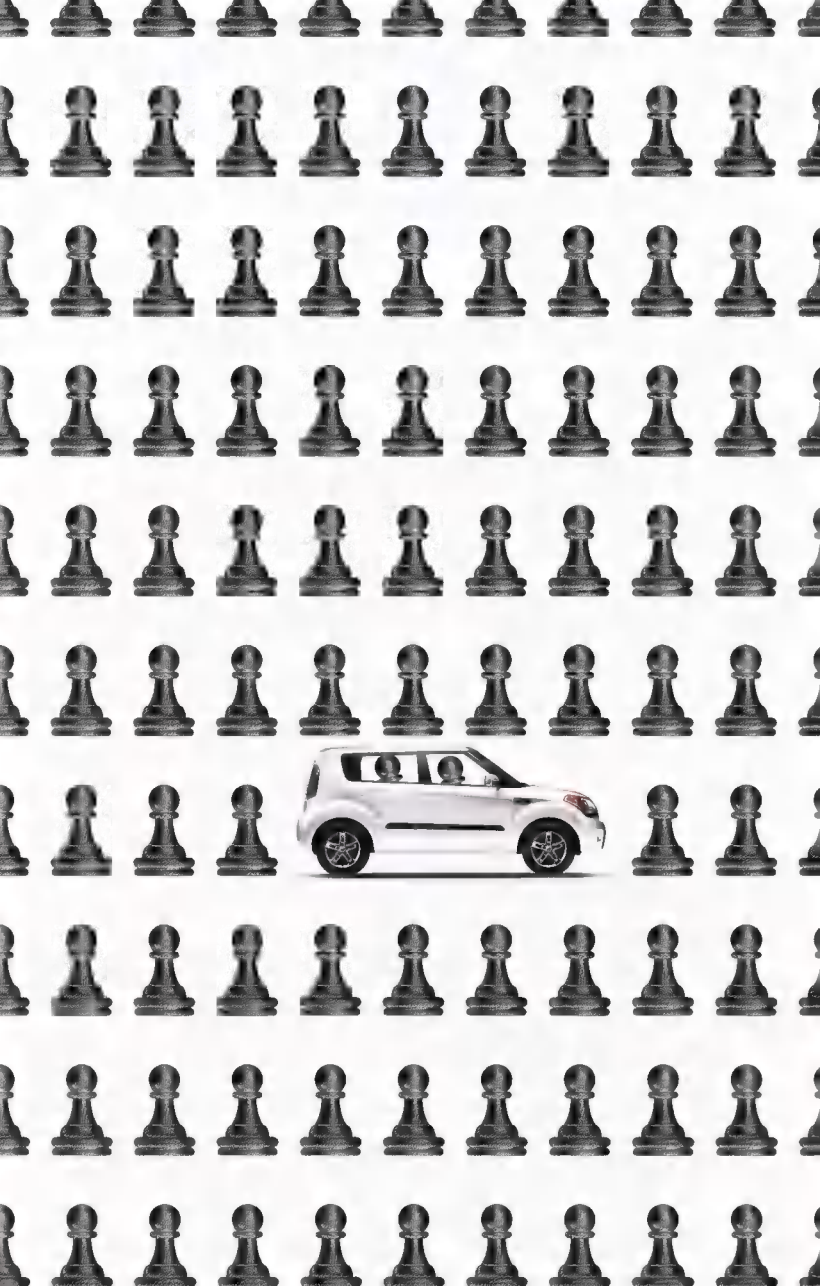
DUBAI.
G-GET UP, HUMMEL! YOU GOTTA RUN!
I...I CAN'T. MY LEG--
BRATTA!
AAGH!
OH GOD OH GOD OH GOD!
LOOK AT YOU.
SO MUCH HATE.
I SWEAR TO GOD I'LL KILL YOU, YOU SONOFA--
OH, REALLY?
THEN GO AHEAD. TAKE IT.

HA.
NOW YOU FINALLY KNOW...
...HOW WE FEEL.
AAH... WAIT... NO...
BLAM!



RRNNNGH...
IT'S WAY TOO LATE TO SAVE YOU, HUMMELL...
WAR MACHINE MAGNO LOCKS ENGAGING.
...BUT EVER SINCE TONY STARK REBUILT ME...
TRACKING VIABLE AUGMENT COMPONENTS.
RRRRUUMMMBLE
...AND PARNELL JACOBS MADE A FEW TWEAKS OF HIS OWN...
SSSHAAANG
CLANK
INITIATING CAPTURE AND INCORPORATION.
SKRANCH
KLONG
ALL SYSTEMS ONLINE.
...I'VE BEEN DOING MY DAMNEDEST...

...TO SAVE EVERYONE ELSE.
SHAAKOOOOOM!
JASON.
JIM. NOT BAD.
YEAH, WELL...

LET ME GIVE IT A SHOT.
THAT TOOTHPICK? YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING.
MIGHT BE A STRANGE CONCEPT FOR YOU...
...BUT SOMETIMES THERE'S SOMETHING TO BE SAID...
A LITTLE FINESSE
SHANNNK!
POINT TAKEN.

LEMME SEE IF I CAN NAIL IT HOME.
WHACRANCH!
THERE WE GO...
B-BOOOM!
...A LITTLE TEAMWORK...
...A LITTLE LEVERAGE...
...AND RHODEY GETS HIMSELF AN ULTIMO EYEBALL.
YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH THAT, BIG GUYZ
I THINK I CAN FIGURE IT OUT.
CLICK CLACK CLINK SHANG
WAR MACHINE ARMOR INCORPORATING ULTIMO TECH...

...ACCESSING OPTIC BLAST WEAPONRY...
HRMMH
...AND FIRING.
BWSSH
ULTIMO SHELL BREACHED.
ALL RIGHT THEN...
...I SEE WHAT'S COOKING...

...INSIDE THAT BIG HEAD.
SHAAM!
WE'RE UNARMED! PLEASE--
MOVE!
SUZI, I'M TAPPING THE SERVERS.
PERFECT. DOWNLOADING NOW.
JAMES RHODES...

DR. PHILIP PROMETHEUS, DIRECTOR OF THE HUMAN ENGINEERING LIFE LABORATORIES.
ON PAPER, THERE'S NO WAY YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BREACH THE FACILITY. I'LL HAVE TO CHECK MY CALCULATIONS AND--
DEVELOPED THE ULTIMO VIRUS. ILLEGALLY PROVIDED SAMPLES TO DAVIS HARMON OF EAGLESTAR INTERNATIONAL.
DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATHS OF 72 TEST SUBJECTS.
JUST TELL ME--
--HOW DO I KILL IT?
YOU JUST DID.
INDIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATHS OF 623 PEOPLE IN THE CAPITOL CITY OF AQIRIA.
NO. ITS BRAIN. WHERE'S ITS BRAIN?
KILL NUMBER: 921
YOU THINK WE'D KEEP THAT IN THE SAME FACILITY AS ITS BODY?
ULTIMO'S BRAIN IS PROGRAMMED TO KILL EVERY LIVING THING IT ENCOUNTERS.
IT'S FAR TOO DANGEROUS TO--
WHERE IS IT?
CACHUNK!
I DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO THAT INFORMATION. AND EVEN IF I DID, I CERTAINLY WOULDN'T TELL YOU.
ULTIMO IS A SENTIENT CREATURE, POSSIBLY UNIQUE IN THE UNIVERSE. GIVEN YOUR OWN CURRENT MAKEUP, I'D IMAGINE YOU'D UNDERSTAND THE NEED TO STUDY HIM INSTEAD OF--
BINGO.
THEY SPLIT THE CPU INTO THREE UNITS, STASHED EACH OF THOSE IN FACILITIES IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

UFF.
DAMMIT! STRONGBOW! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
TAKE HIM DOWN, NOW!
STRONGBOW!
YOU'RE ON SPEAKERPHONE, OSBORN.
KEEP AN EYE ON MY MA?
SURE.
DON'T KILL ANYONE I WOULDN'T.
WE'LL SEE.

TWO MILES OVER LEBANON, KANSAS.
GEOGRAPHIC CENTER OF THE CONTIGUOUS UNITED STATES.
JAKE, BETHANY, YOU READ?
LOUD AND CLEAR, SUZI...
...WE'RE GETTING ITCHY
SOMEONE HAD TO TRANSMIT THE TARGETING DISABLERS.
BUT NOW WE'RE GETTING COORDINATES--I'M ABOUT TO UPLOAD THE FLIGHT PLANS TO YOUR SUITS. YOU SCRAMBLE IN FIVE
THIS IS GONNA BE SO AWESOME
DUDE, WE NEED NAMES!
DUDE, DON'T CALL ME DUDE
YOU CAN BE WAR MACHINA. GET IT?
NO..NO... IRON MAIDEN. GET IT?
JAKE, I HATE TO BREAK IT TO YOU...
...BUT IF THIS IS YOUR IDEA OF FLIRTING, IT AIN'T WORKING.
HA. SUZI, WHAT'S MY TARGET?
OH, BOY.
GET READY FOR A SURPRISE...

PLANO, TEXAS.
BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!
WHAT THE HELL...
I GAVE EXPRESS ORDERS THAT I NOT BE DISTURBED.
I KNOW. I'M SORRY, SIR...
...BUT I THOUGHT YOU'D WANT TO SEE THIS.
RHODEY.
DIDN'T WASTE ANY TIME, DID HE?
HE SUCCESSFULLY BREACHED THE ULTIMO HEADQUARTERS AND TAPPED THE DATABANKS.
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO MAKE OUR MOVE.
WE'RE NOT READY, SIR.
I FINISHED THE CODING THIS MORNING. MOVE TO EXECUTE.
THE BOARD SHOULD VOTE ON THIS. AT THE VERY LEAST, THE ENGINEERS SHOULD REVIEW--
ENOUGH. THERE'S NO TIME. JUST TELL THEM YOU GOT THE DIRECTIVE...

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...STRAIGHT FROM MR. STARK HIMSELF.
TO BE CONTINUED!

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